

## **RULES FOR ANIMALS ENTERING & TRAVELING WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

In 2003-4, the European Union (EU) established the current regulations for pet travel into and within EU Member States. The rules are stringent and not necessarily uniform among the member states; the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, and Finland in particular.

It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure they meet the requirements of the country to which they wish to take their pet. It is critical that pet owners start early and plan accordingly with their military, local and/or federal regional veterinarians for non-commercial pet travel to Europe.

The purpose of this document is to familiarize military personnel with the basic requirements and provide them with references for additional information.

### **TRAVEL FROM THE USA TO AN EU MEMBER STATE**

1. The USA is considered an EU favorably listed country. When traveling with a dog, cat or ferret from the USA, the pet must fly on an approved carrier and route directly to the EU. EU Member States require:

a. Implanted identity **Microchip** – pets must have been microchipped prior to their most current rabies vaccination. The microchip used should comply with International Standards Organization (ISO) Standard 11784 or Annex A to ISO standard 11785; otherwise the pet owner will have to bring their own microchip scanner. Military veterinarians should be aware of this requirement and use the EU approved microchips and scanners.

b. Proof of current **Rabies vaccination** - microchip number must be recorded on the rabies vaccination certificate. The rabies vaccine must be an inactivated vaccine produced in accordance with OIE standards. Licensed three-year rabies vaccines are recognized if they are annotated properly on all documents. If it is the pet's first rabies vaccination, the EU requires a 21 day wait from the date of the vaccination prior to entering an EU country. The rabies vaccination certificate should have the veterinarian's original signature in a color other than black and must have an official practice stamp of the accredited veterinarian.

c. Official International **Veterinary Health Certificate** (EU Form 998) - microchip number must be recorded on the Health Certificate (HC). It must be printed on one sheet of paper (two-sided), completed in block letters in the language of the EU country of entry and/or in English. Must have the veterinarian's original signature in a color other than black, and must have an official practice stamp of the accredited veterinarian. It is good for entry into the EU and subsequent intra-community movement.

(1) The HC must be signed by an accredited veterinarian who certifies the pet's identification and microchip number, vaccination status, health status, conducts tests and records results of those tests. The international veterinary HC must be signed, endorsed and stamped by a U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Officer, or if signed by a civilian veterinarian, it must also be endorsed by a USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office veterinarian in order to be valid. If endorsed by a USDA APHIS veterinarian, a raised USDA stamp must be used in the endorsement block. From the date it is signed or endorsed by the veterinarian, the HC is valid for four months or until the expiry of the rabies vaccination, whichever is earlier. However, some airlines require the HC to be less than ten days old at the time of air travel (see Additional Information paragraph).

(2) In addition to the HC, travelers must also possess supporting documentation. Carry your pet's original vaccination and blood test results (if applicable), or certified copies thereof, which show the microchip number.

2. To determine country specific requirements, contact your veterinarian and research the following websites.

a. EU requirements for import of animals from third countries (such as the USA):

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm\\_third\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm)

b. Country specific requirements can be viewed at the following USDA APHIS website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

c. You may wish to contact a specific country's consulate or embassy for their most current information. A listing of consulates can be found on the following U.S. Department of State website:

<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>

d. Many countries also publish their pet import regulations on their respective ministry of agriculture or health websites.

e. The EU Veterinary (Health) Certificate (English) can be downloaded from the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/sanco10767r4\\_en.doc](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/sanco10767r4_en.doc)

f. When traveling to a non-English speaking country, a bilingual official veterinary HC is necessary. Bilingual EU Veterinary (Health) Certificates for all EU countries can be downloaded from the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm\\_third\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm)

g. To find the nearest USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office that can endorse your civilian veterinarian issued Health Certificate, please go to this website:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/)

## **TRAVEL FROM THE USA OR EU MEMBER STATE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, SWEDEN, MALTA AND FINLAND**

In addition to the microchip, rabies vaccination and HC, these EU Member States have supplementary requirements. Pet owners traveling to the UK, Ireland, Sweden, and Malta must prove rabies vaccination protection (satisfactory rabies “FAVN” titers from an EU-approved laboratory) and administer specific antiparasitic treatments against ticks and tapeworms prior to travel. Finland does not require the FAVN test, but does require tick and tapeworm treatment. All veterinary HC of pets entering the UK and Ireland from the USA must be endorsed by a USDA APHIS veterinarian using a raised stamp, regardless of whether or not the HC was originally issued by a U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Officer. Once signed or endorsed by the veterinarian, the HC is valid for four months or until the expiry of the rabies vaccination, whichever is earlier. However, some airlines require the HC to be less than ten days old at the time of air travel (see Additional Information paragraph).

Pets traveling to the UK must fly on approved air transit routes and carriers to arrive as cargo on specific flights at the UK quarantine stations. Owners must have a reservation for their pet at the quarantine station if the animal has not met the UK’s 180 day post-FAVN waiting period requirement.

Owners need to coordinate with their military or local veterinarian up to a year in advance to ensure all the proper steps, tests, and treatments are completed in the required sequence (microchip, rabies vaccination, FAVN test, HC, tick & tapeworm treatment), are properly documented, and specific waiting times (rabies vaccination, FAVN, HC, and tick & tapeworm treatment) have been met. These special rules will remain in effect at least through 30 JUN 2010.

1. The **United Kingdom's (UK)** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm>

2. **Ireland's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>

<http://www.agriculture.ie/index.jsp?file=pets/index.xml>

3. **Sweden's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.sjv.se/home.4.7502f61001ea08a0c7fff125607.html>  
<http://www.sjv.se/home/amnesomraden/animalhealthwelfare/importexportofliveanimals/dogsandcats.4.7502f61001ea08a0c7fff126754.html>

4. **Malta's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

<http://www.mrae.gov.mt>  
<http://www.svscr.cz/files/malta.pdf>

5. **Finland's** requirements for import of pets can be found at these websites:

[http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/animals\\_and\\_health/import\\_and\\_export/](http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/animals_and_health/import_and_export/)  
[http://wwwb.mmm.fi/el/julk/pdf/Import%20of%20pets%203.7.2004%20\\_17.5.\\_.pdf](http://wwwb.mmm.fi/el/julk/pdf/Import%20of%20pets%203.7.2004%20_17.5._.pdf)

## **TRAVEL FROM A NON-EU COUNTRY (OTHER THAN THE USA) INTO AN EU MEMBER STATE**

When traveling from an EU favored country (for example, Japan) into an EU Member State, the requirements are the same as described for travel from the USA in the paragraphs above. However, if traveling from non-favorably listed countries (for example, Turkey) special rules and requirements apply, to include FAVN testing, for entry into EU Member States. Consult with your veterinarian and reference the following EU website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm\\_third\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm)

## **EU PET PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN EU MEMBER STATES AND CERTAIN LISTED COUNTRIES**

As of 3 July 2008, dogs, cats and ferrets meeting the necessary requirements may move between EU Member States and certain other favorably listed countries and territories if they are accompanied by an EU Pet Passport and have not been outside any of these countries in the past six months. All EU Member States recognize this document. EU Pet Passports have replaced the PETS entry and re-entry certificates for the UK and Ireland.

Having a completed and validated EU Pet Passport will streamline your pet's entry into and between any of the EU countries. It is also a convenient way of keeping your Pet's Health Records in a compact and easily accessible format.

However, official EU Pet Passports only exist in the EU. They are controlled and must be issued by a government authorized EU veterinarian. Furthermore, there are

many accompanying requirements for their issuance. Therefore, they may only be used for EU intra-community travel of US pets once they have already been imported into the EU via the procedures previously described.

1. Information on European Union (EU) pet import rules (and pet passports):

[http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/PETS/Regulation/eu\\_reg.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/PETS/Regulation/eu_reg.htm)

2. Movement of animals within the EU:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm\\_intra\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_intra_en.htm)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Airline Travel Restrictions**

a. All airlines have different travel restrictions when it comes to safe shipping of animals. Some may not ship animals during certain times of the year or during particularly inclement weather. Some require an “Acclimation Certificate” (temperature tolerance statement) from your veterinarian stating that your pet should be able to survive the temperatures to which it will be exposed during travel. For most airlines, “Acclimation Certificates” are valid for ten days. In addition, some airlines also require that the pet’s HC be signed within a specified number of days (typically ten) prior to the flight in order to minimize the health risks of transported pets.

b. Airlines also have animal transport rules regarding transport cages, feeding, weight allowances, number of animals per flight, etc. Please check with your airline well in advance of travel. The International Airline Transportation Association (IATA) has some useful information concerning transport of pets, including container specifications, at the following website:

[http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live\\_animals/pets.htm](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live_animals/pets.htm)

**2. Dangerous Dog Laws, Wild and Exotic Animals** – Dog/cat breeds, hybrids, and animal species that are considered “Banned” by the destination country will not be granted entry. Additionally, some dog breeds are not completely banned but have additional restrictions for ownership such as temperament testing and wearing of a muzzle when in public. The UK and Germany are two countries with particularly restrictive dangerous dog laws. Owners should check with the embassy or consulate of the country they are traveling to determine banned or restricted species and breeds.

**3. Other Domestic Pets** – Other species of pet animals (such as horses, small mammals, birds and reptiles) may have special requirements for entry into the EU, or may not be allowed entry altogether. Owners should consult with their veterinarian and research country specific rules and regulations regarding entry/exit of animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets.

4. **Military Working Dogs (MWDs)** – current DoD policy is for all MWDs to be kept up-to-date on both their rabies vaccination and FAVN status.

#### 5. **Preventive Health Care**

a. Consult with your veterinarian prior to departure and upon arrival for potential pet health risks indigenous to the area of travel. Be aware and take precautions against risk of exposure to infectious diseases and parasites (e.g. heartworm, Leishmaniasis, ticks, etc).

b. **Leishmaniasis** - EU countries have been reported to refuse entry to animals found to be Leishmania positive.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES**

#### **USDA APHIS**

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/pet\\_travel/pet\\_travel.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/pet_travel/pet_travel.shtml)  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml)

#### **EU Movement of Pets**

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm)  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>  
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l\\_146/l\\_14620030613en00010009.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_146/l_14620030613en00010009.pdf)  
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l\\_358/l\\_35820041203en00120017.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_358/l_35820041203en00120017.pdf)

#### **Qualifying EU Listed Countries and Territories**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/procedures/support-info/countries.htm>

#### **Qualifying non-EU listed Countries (EU favorably listed)**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/procedures/support-info/other.htm>

#### **Germany**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_germany.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_germany.shtml)  
[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/04\\_\\_Legal/02\\_\\_Directory\\_\\_Services/06\\_\\_Customs/Pets/\\_\\_Pets.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/04__Legal/02__Directory__Services/06__Customs/Pets/__Pets.html)

## **Italy**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_italy.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_italy.shtml)  
<http://rome.usembassy.gov/agtrade/files/pets.asp>

## **Spain**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_spain.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_spain.shtml)  
<http://www.maec.es/en/Home/Paginas/Practical%20information.aspx#7>

## **Belgium**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_belgium.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_belgium.shtml)  
<http://www.diplobel.org/USA/TravelingBelgium/Pets/CatDogFerret.asp#Traveling>

## **Turkey**

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal\\_turkey.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_turkey.shtml)  
<http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr/ConsularServices.aspx?ID=20>

## **Pet Travel Tips**

<http://www.pettravel.com/>  
<http://www.pettravel.com/passportnew.cfm>  
[http://www.pettravel.com/passports\\_USDA\\_certification.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/passports_USDA_certification.cfm)  
[http://www.pettravel.com/airline\\_rules.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/airline_rules.cfm)  
[http://www.pettravel.com/passports\\_container\\_requirements.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/passports_container_requirements.cfm)  
[http://www.pettravel.com/news\\_letter.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/news_letter.cfm)